

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00050 071751Z  
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /020 W  
-----071936Z 106209 /43

R 071715Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8706  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 50

DEPT FOR INR/OIL/B

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EEC PINT EI  
SUBJ: VIEWS OF NEW EEC COMMISSIONER BURKE

REF: (A) 76 EC BRUSSELS 12466, (B) 76 DUBLIN 2551

1. NEW (IRISH) EC COMMISSIONER RICHARD BURKE HAS BEEN  
RETICENT ABOUT AIRING HIS VIEWS ON EC ISSUES, BUT FROM  
VARIOUS SOURCES WE CONCLUDE THAT HIS APPROACH WILL BE:

CAP: BURKE SEES THE RETENTION OF THE CAP AS  
HIS "FIRST PRIORITY", AND HE BELIEVES THAT IT  
"MUST NOT BE TAMPERED WITH" OR CHANGED. ALTHOUGH HE  
RECOGNIZES THAT THIS POSITION, WHICH OBVIOUSLY  
COINCIDES WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT IRISH INTEREST,  
MIGHT SEEM TO CONFLICT WITH THE "INDEPENDENCE" OF A  
COMMISSIONER, HE IS PREPARED TO FIGHT HARD TO PRESERVE  
THE CAP BECAUSE HE SEES IT AS "A BASIC CORNERSTONE  
TO THE ASPIRATION OF EUROPEAN UNITY."

REGIONAL FUND: BURKE LISTS THIS AS HIS SECOND  
PRIORITY BUT SOMETHING WHICH IS VERY IMPORTANT. HE  
SAID THAT WITHIN THE COMMISSION HE WILL FIGHT FOR  
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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00050 071751Z

"AN ENTIRELY NEW APPROACH" WHICH COULD BE "REVOLUTIONARY".  
HE RATHER VAGUELY DESCRIBES THIS APPROACH AS  
FOLLOWS: "THERE SHOULD BE A GENERAL SHIFTING OF  
RESOURCES THROUGH ALL THE CHANNELS AVAILABLE TO THE  
COMMUNITY THAT WILL ACHIEVE THE REAL MOVEMENT TOWARDS  
EQUALIZATION THAT HAS LONG BEEN THE IDEAL OF THOSE  
WITH A VISION OF WHERE EUROPE SHOULD BE HEADING -

AND NOT JUST THE HANDING OF CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE  
OF THE RICHER STATES TO THE POORER AREAS."

2. ON OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS TRADE, NORTH/SOUTH, BURKE  
HAS NOT VENTURED OPINIONS INSOFAR AS WE KNOW. ONE  
REPORTER WHO KNOWS HIM WELL SAID THAT BURKE IS VERY  
ADEPT AT KEEPING HIS MOUTH SHUT ON SUBJECTS ABOUT  
WHICH HE IS NOT WELL INFORMED, AND SINCE BURKE HAS HAD  
LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS HE HAS NOT  
FORMED STRONG OPINIONS ON MOST ISSUES.

3. FROM ALL INDICATIONS BURKE IS THE LOYAL SERVANT OF  
PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE AND HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO  
KEEP IRELAND'S INTERESTS FOREMOST. WE DO NOT EXPECT  
THAT HE WILL DO ANYTHING TO DISPLEASE THE IRISH  
GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH IF THE OPPOSITION GETS IN  
THIS YEAR, THE SITUATION WOULD CHANGE. SINCE FURTHER  
EC INTEGRATION HAS BEEN A GOVERNMENT POLICY BURKE  
WOULD NATURALLY SUPPORT IT.

4. BURKE WAS MINISTER FOR EDUCATION DURING A  
PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT PERIOD. STUDENTS AND ACADEMIC  
ADMINISTRATORS ALIKE HAVE BEEN DISSATISFIED WITH GOI  
HANDLING OF PROBLEMS SUCH AS FUNDING AND AN EXPANSION IN  
THE NUMBER OF FULL DEGREE-GRANTING INSTITUTIONS. ALTHOUGH  
THE UNPOPULAR ACTIONS WERE MOST CERTAINLY FULL-CABINET  
DECISIONS, BURKE TOOK THE HEAT. HE HAS A REPUTATION FOR  
EFFICIENCY AND WILL PROBABLY BE A GOOD ADMINISTRATOR.  
CURLEY

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PAGE 03 DUBLIN 00050 071751Z

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 EC BRUSSELS 12466, 76 DUBLIN 2551  
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**TAGS:** PINT, EI, EEC, (BURKE, RICHARD)  
**To:** EC BRUSSELS  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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